

PATENT
790001-2037**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for election of species and rejections of the application respectfully requested in view of the amendments, remarks and enclosures herewith, which place the application in condition for allowance.

STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

In the interest of advancing prosecution, the claim language of claims 5, 11 and 25, which were indicated by the Examiner to be allowable if placed in independent form, has been inserted into claims 1, 7 and 20 respectively. With the cancellation of claims 5, 11 and 25, remaining claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 20, 21, 23, 24 and 27-29 should be allowable. The amendments to the claims should not be viewed as a concession that the rejection of Sato et al. (U.S. Patent 6,630,714) and Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0151112) were proper and the applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of cancelled claims in continuing application.

It is submitted that the claims, herewith and as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited in the Office Action, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendments of the claims, as presented herein, are not made for purposes of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§§§ 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these amendments and additions are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

In the interest of adhering to the tenets of compact prosecution and obtaining good customer service (see page 7 of the FY-2004 Performance and Accountability Report), the applicants request that the teachings of MPEP 707.07(j), sections II and III be applied, especially with regard to the offer of suggestion for correction by the Examiner if the rejections are upheld.

In accordance with MPEP 713.01, section III, should any issue remain as an impediment to allowance, an interview with the Examiner and SPE are respectfully requested; and, the Examiner is additionally requested to contact the undersigned to arrange a mutually convenient time and manner for such an interview ("An interview should normally be arranged for in advance, as by letter, facsimile, electronic mail, telegram or telephone call, in order to insure that

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the primary examiner and/or the examiner in charge of the application will be present in the office." *Id.*).

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments herewith, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The undersigned looks forward to hearing favorably from the Examiner at an early date, and, the Examiner is invited to telephonically contact the undersigned to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
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